

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (original): A method of displacing an intermediate article within a trimming machine during the manufacture of a plastic blow molded container, comprising the steps of:

supplying a one-piece intermediate article to a trimming machine having a drive mechanism for displacing said intermediate article within said trimming machine, said intermediate article including a hollow blow-molded container body having a blown annular finish, a blow-molded accommodation portion projecting from said blown annular finish, and an injection-molded neck portion projecting from said accommodation portion and defining an open top of the intermediate article; and

engaging said injection molded neck portion with said drive mechanism to displace said intermediate article within said trimming machine;

whereby engaging said injection-molded neck portion enables accurate control of the intermediate article resulting in improved trim consistency and quality.

Claim 2 (original): A method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of separating said accommodation portion from said container body as said intermediate article is displaced within said trimming machine.

Claim 3 (original): A method according to claim 2, wherein said step of displacing the intermediate article includes rotating the intermediate article about its longitudinal axis while said intermediate article is in contact with a severing element.

Claim 4 (original): A method according to claim 3, wherein said step of displacing the intermediate article includes conveying said intermediate article within the trimming machine.

Claim 5 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said engaging step includes matingly engaging said injection molded neck portion with said drive mechanism.

Claim 6 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said engaging step includes frictionally engaging said injection molded neck portion with said drive mechanism.

Claim 7 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said engaging step includes engaging said injection molded neck portion with detents extending from said drive mechanism.

Claim 8 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said injection-molded neck portion of the intermediate article has an inner peripheral surface which provides an internal drive surface, and wherein said engaging step includes inserting a portion of said drive mechanism into said open top of said intermediate article to positively engage said internal drive surface for displacing said intermediate article within said trimming machine.

Claim 9 (original): A method according to claim 8, wherein said displacing includes rotating said intermediate article about its longitudinal axis

Claim 10 (original): A method according to claim 8, wherein said displacing includes transporting said intermediate article.

Claim 11 (original): A method according to claim 1, wherein said injection-molded neck portion of the intermediate article has an outer peripheral surface providing an external drive surface, and wherein during said engaging step said drive mechanism engages said external drive surface to displace said intermediate article within said trimming machine.

Claim 12 (original): A method according to claim 11, wherein said displacing includes rotating said intermediate article about its longitudinal axis

Claim 13 (original): A method according to claim 11, wherein said displacing includes transporting said intermediate article.

Claim 14 (original): A method according to claim 2, wherein said step of separating said accommodation portion from said container body is accomplished by one of mechanical cutting, ultrasonic cutting, and laser cutting.

Claim 15 (original): A method according to claim 2, wherein said supplying step includes injection molding a preform having a sidewall portion, a closed bottom end, and a neck portion defining an open end of the preform and a surface which is releasably enagageable by said drive mechanism, and blow molding said tubular sidewall portion and closed bottom end of said preform to form said intermediate article with its injection molded neck portion remaining substantially unchanged during said blow molding step.

Claims 16-35 (canceled).